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PATENT

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IBM/116

Confirmation No. 9216

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



Applicant: Cary Lee Bates et al.
Serial No.: 09/491,902
Filed: January 27, 2000
For: AUTOMATED DETECTION OF SPOKEN NUMBERS IN VOICE
MESSAGES

Art Unit: 2641
Examiner: Daniel Demelash Abebe
Atty. Docket No.: IBM/116

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE

RECEIVED

MAR 19 2002

Technology Center 2600

Box NON-FEE AMENDMENT
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

In reply to the Office Action dated November 30, 2001, the following amendments and remarks are provided:

Amendments

In the Claims

Please cancel claims 7, 12, 17 and 24 without prejudice.

Please amend claims 1, 8, 10, 13, 22, 25 and 27 to read as follows:

1. (Once Amended) A method of processing a voice message, the method comprising:

- (a) performing voice recognition on at least a portion of the voice message to generate a textual representation of the voice message;
- (b) detecting a position of a spoken number in the textual representation of the voice message;
- (c) determining a playback start position based upon the position of the spoken number;
- (d) playing the voice message starting at the playback start position; and
- (e) automatically dialing the spoken number.